

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CG-00

DLOS-04 DOTE-00 EB-07 OFA-01 /070 W

----- 053955

R 241551Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7057

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS

AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, CA, UR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: PRESSURES MOUNT FOR UNILATERAL ACTION FOR 200-MILE
LOS JURISDICTION

REF: OTTAWA 2750

1. PRESSURE HAS BEEN MOUNTING ON GOC TO ESTABLISH 100-MILE
LIMIT, PARTICULARLY IN CANADIAN EAST COAST WATERS. THESE
HAVE COME FROM THREE DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS: 1) A PETITION
WITH 100,000 SIGNATURES HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE
OF COMMONS CALLING FOR UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF CANADIAN
CONTROL OF FISHING ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF; 2) MP'S
FROM MARITIME PROVINCES CONTINUE TO PRESS GOC FOR SUCH ACTION;
AND 3) FROM MARITIME PROVINCIAL MINISTERS WHO HAVE COMMUNI-
CATED WITH FEDERAL OFFICIALS TO EXPRESS THEIR GROWING
BITTERNESS OVER FAILURE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PRO-
CLAIM 200-MILE LIMIT.

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WM GOC, HOWEVER, HAS FENDED OFF THESE INITIATIVES AND

CONTINUES TO STATE ITS POSITION THAT UNILATERAL ACTION
WOULD NOT BE PROPITIOUS AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH IT REMAINS
A VIABLE OPTION. CLOSURE OF EASTERN
PORTS TO SOVIET VESSELS REPRESENTS AN EFFORT
BY GOC TO RESPOND TO MARITIME CONCERN AND DIMINISH
WRATH OF THOSE PROVINCES REGARDING THE DEPLETION OF
EASTERN FISHING RESOURCES. GOC HAS ALSO REITERATED IN
PARLIAMENT ITS DESIRE TO OBTAIN A 40 PERCENT REDUCTION
IN IICNAF QUOTAS AT FORTHCOMING ICNAF CONFERENCE; THIS
MOVE HAS BEEN FULLY ENDORSED BY THE HOUSE. TO SUPPORT
ITS POSITION GOC DID ANNOUNCE IN HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT
IT HAS EXPRESSED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
ITS DESIRE THAT CANADA'S MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT INCREASE
SURVEILLANCE OF OFFSHORE WATERS, AND THAT IT IS PURSUING BILATERAL
DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES TO BRING A HALT TO EXCESSIVE
FISHING BY FOREIGN VESSELS.

3. COMMENT: GOC IS OBVIOUSLY HOPEFUL THAT CLOSING OF
PORTS TO SOVIET VESSELS WILL DIMINISH PRESSURE
FOR UNILATERAL ACTION. GOC IS PROBABLY
RELUCTANT TO ACT UNILATERALLY SINCE IT IS COMMITTED TO
THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD MUCH PREFER TO SEE AN
INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED EXTENSION OF HER JURISDICTIONS.
BUT THE PRESSURE IS HAVING ITS EFFECT, AS EVIDENT IN THIS
NEW STEP, AND THE GOC MAY FEEL FORCED TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION.
JOHNSON

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